

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 10, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation:

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- *Northwest Area Command (Williams-Rhodes) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 28,349 acres, 15% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
 - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 10,977 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
 - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 52,974 acres, 87% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 23,497 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 41,489 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
 - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 34,970 acre complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
 - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 57,570 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
 - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,150 acres, 45% contained, 45 statute miles NE of Kalispell.*
- *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,300 acres, 95% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 36,855 acres, 75% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 25,110 acres, 90% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
- *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 25,202 acres, 72%*

contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.

- *Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 39,707 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.*
- *Beaver Lake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Brunner) – 26,307 acres, 62% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.*
- *Clear/Nez Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Cones). This 11,425 acre complex is located 41 miles SW of Lolo in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.*
- *East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.*
- *Gold 1 – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*
- *Buffalo Ranch – 23 miles North of Poplar, MT – 2,000 acres, 100% contained.*
- *North Chelsea – 12 miles Northwest of Poplar, MT – 1,100 acres, 100% contained.*

B. Initial Attack *Northern Region Minimal initial attack – 8 new fires 18,101 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT

409 AM MDT WED SEP 10 2003

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Partly Cloudy With Patchy Morning Fog North. Becoming Partly Cloudy Elsewhere. Slight Chance Of Afternoon Showers... Mainly Mountains. Highs 60 To 70.

Tonight - Becoming Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers North Late. Lows 39 To 49.

Thursday - Mostly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers North. Highs 61 To 71.

CENTRAL MONTANA

...High Wind Watch Thursday For The Rocky Mountain Front And Adjacent Plains...

Today - Partly Cloudy And Breezy. Highs In The 60s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy And Breezy. Lows In The Upper 30s To Mid 40s.

Thursday - Partly Cloudy. Windy. Highs In The Lower 60s To Lower 70s. West Winds 30 To 45 Mph Northwest...25 To 35 Mph Elsewhere.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Scattered Rain And High Mountain Snow Showers Far South. Highs In The Lower 50s To Lower 60s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Lows In The 30s. Thursday...Mostly Cloudy And Breezy. Highs In The Mid 50s To Mid 60s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today - Mostly Cloudy...Windy And Cool. Rain Likely South And East. Highs 55 To 65.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy West...Mostly Cloudy East. A Chance Of Rain East Until Midnight. Lows 35 To 45.

Thursday - Warmer. Mostly Cloudy North...Partly Cloudy South. Windy West. Highs 65 To 75.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03

Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Sanders	Chouteau	Missoula
Glacier	Teton	Jefferson	Pondera
Lake	Broadwater	Meagher	Powell
Lewis & Clark	Cascade	Mineral	Toole
Lincoln			

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

Current Montana National Guard Resources		
Montana Army Guard	EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS <i>63 Soldiers Assigned</i>	23 Transport and Cargo Vehicles	Air Guardsmen <i>26 Airmen Assigned</i>

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0800-1700 daily.

- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Northwest Area Command

The Agency Representative assigned to the Missoula Area Command from the State Emergency Coordination Center will demobilize at the end of business today.

Expectations are that the Agency Representative assigned to the Northwest Area Command will begin demobilizing as early as tomorrow and no later than the end of this week.

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

The Northern Rockies Coordination Center information line has scaled back service hours to 0830 to 1700.

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:

<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures

For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc